

*Application No. 09/934178*  
*Page 3*

*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-5605-US05*

**Amendments To The Claims:**

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A stent having a plurality of segments and comprising:  
a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells which are bounded at a first end by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element and two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element, the first end offset in a circumferential direction from the second end,

a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the connecting members are connected to the peak portions and valley portions of the adjacent annular members.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the longitudinal flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the radial flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second segments are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A stent having a plurality of segments and comprising:

REST AVAILABLE COPY

*Application No. 09/934178*  
*Page 4*

*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-5605-US05*

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern having a plurality of peaks and troughs,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements from peak to trough to form a plurality of cells, each cell having an area; each connecting member having a first end and a second end, the second end offset in a circumferential direction from the first end,

a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A stent comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and connectors, adjacent serpentine bands connected by connecting members, the stent having a plurality of cells, each cell defined by two connectors and portions of two different serpentine bands, one of the portions being proximal to the other portion, the peaks of the proximal portion being offset circumferentially from the troughs of the distal portion.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made from Nitinol.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made of a self-expandable material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the serpentine bands include bands of a shorter length and bands of a longer length, the longer length bands located at first and second ends of the stent.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY